

## Request for Reconsideration Regarding the Petersburg Borough

By: George B. Cole  
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Local Boundary Commission  
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Sirs and/or Madams:

Pursuant to 03AAC 110.580(a), I request the Local Boundary Commission to reconsider its final vote of June 1, 2012 wherein it was decided by a 4 to 1 vote that the Petersburg Borough Incorporation Petition met all the required standards.

To me there was a clear indication that the final vote on June 1, 2012 was flawed. Commissioner Semmons had apparently made up his mind halfway through the public hearing that he was going to vote in the affirmative and it was clear he expected the other commissioners to follow his lead.

As I said in my closing statement on June 1, 2012: *"I do feel opposition to the borough is a lost cause in this venue. Perhaps it was a slip of the tongue but Commissioner Semmons said it best yesterday when he was having an exchange with Joe Shelton from Juneau. He let slip words to the effect of "When we finish with this hearing and the ensuing vote..." It was apparent at that moment that he has already made up his mind on the issue and that it will go to a vote."*

By the number and content of comments and questions he made throughout the hearing, it was apparent that Commissioner Semmons has much influence upon the other commissioners. He played a dominant role in questioning witnesses and when it appeared other commissioners were dozing, he was always on point. His focus and force of personality could not avoid swaying their mindset in favor of the proponents and against the opponents.

I believe that a mind already made up cannot evenly weigh evidence and come to a fair and impartial decision. Since Commissioner Semmons had, in my opinion, already made up his mind halfway through the hearing and he had so much influence on the other commissioners, the final vote was flawed. In my mind, a vote based upon predetermination is a misrepresented vote.

If Commissioner Semmons had made up his mind before the conclusion of evidence and arguments, he should have recused himself from the final vote. Because of his apparent

influence over the other commissioners, had he done so that action could have drastically altered the outcome of the hearing.

One commissioner decided the petition did not meet the standards. This is a clear indication that the case for the petition was not irrefutable and absent Commissioner Semmons influence the vote might easily have gone the other way.

Under 3AAC 110.580 (e)(2) a misrepresented vote is grounds for reconsideration.

This decision will affect hundreds of people for hundreds of years and so it should be clear that the decision was not based upon bias or predetermination. I therefore request that the Local Boundary Commission reconsider its final decision in the matter of the Petersburg Borough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Cole".

George Cole  
Keene Channel, Alaska

